

**Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 31, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization's (APO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31 2019 at Stearns County Public Works. Senior Planner Vicki Johnson presided with the following members present:

Matt Glaesman	Saint Cloud
Steve Foss	Saint Cloud
John Noerenberg (alt)	Waite Park
Doug Diedrichsen	Metro Bus
Randy Sabart	Saint Joseph/SEH
Chris Byrd	Benton County
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Todd Schultz	Sauk Rapids
Steve Voss	MnDOT Dist #3
Krista Anderson	SRF
Jackie Nowak	SRF
Vicki Johnson	Saint Cloud APO
Brian Gibson	Saint Cloud APO
Alex McKenzie	Saint Cloud APO
Alison Henning	Saint Cloud APO
Dorothy Sweet	Saint Cloud APO

CONSIDER MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2019:

Ms. Teich motioned to approve the June 27, 2019 TAC meeting minutes, and Mr. Glaesman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No members of the public were present.

FINAL DRAFT OF THE FY 2020-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):

Senior Planner Vicki Johnson commented that the TIP document being presented for approval to the Policy Board contains comments received during the public comment period and the addition of two DEMO funded projects for FY 2020 – Stearns County's CSAH 133 alignment study and Saint Cloud's 33rd Street S bridge study – that were programmed into the APO's Unified Planning Work Program. The three comments received during the public comment period are contained in Chapter Five of the full draft TIP. *Mr. Byrd motioned to recommend Policy Board approval and Mr. Foss seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

DRAFT 2020 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP):

Mr. Gibson presented the 2020 UPWP for approval to the Policy Board. The 2020 UPWP represents the annual budget and program funding for programming projects. The 2020 budget includes one APO staff vacancy at the present time and the continuation of jurisdictional assessment rate of \$0.68 per capita. Two proposed projects planned with left-over Demonstration funds for corridor preservation studies include Stearns County CSAH 133 Alignment Study and Saint Cloud 33rd Street South Mississippi River bridge and corridor alignment study. In addition, a TH 15 Operational Improvement Study and Travel Demand Model Updates and Improvements are planned. Mr. Gibson reviewed other planning tasks to be completed which include:

- o Developing a post-mortem report following the completion of the 2019 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and developing a schedule for the completion of the next MTP.

- Continued development of a regional Active Transportation Plan
- Continued development of Safe Routes to School plans
- Continued investigation and development of descriptors and performance measures for the relationship between transportation and economic development and between transportation and the natural environment.
- Developing a regional consensus as to what “Transportation Security” means and what role, if any the APO can and should play in achieving it

Mr. Gibson highlighted the various Work Activity Categories as well as Federal Funding, State Funding, Local Match/State Grant, and Other Local Funds for the categories as well as the APO Budget History from 2015 to 2020. Mr. Voss added that MnDOT may get involved in the Highway 15 Study. Mr. Gibson added that he would also like to look at Waite Avenue and 33rd.

Mr. Glaesman motioned to recommend approval of the 2020 Unified Planning Work Program to the Policy Board, and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DRAFT METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP): MAPPING 2045:

Krista Anderson and Jackie Nowak from SRF presented the final model run results, which included the projects which were in the packets. Slides which had been shown at a previous TAC meeting were again reviewed. Model results shared included Existing Congestion issues with and without no build scenarios, ring road scenarios, and scheduled projects.

In response to Mr. Byrd’s request about what ring road assumptions were made, Mr. Gibson responded that the no intersections were added and that the road would be at grade. Mr. Voss asked if there are other alternatives to get us to the same place with the ring road. Mr. Gibson stated other alternatives are not being addressed here, but may be done in the next MTP process.

Mr. Gibson reviewed the 2045 MTP. Topics reviewed included:

- Existing Conditions (travel time and distance, jobs, vehicle miles traveled, road & bridge conditions, injuries & fatalities, crashes, fixed route transit annual ridership, walking/biking)
- Goals & Objectives (develop and maintain a transportation system that is safe for all users, increase the accessibility and mobility options for people and freight, develop a transportation system that is cost-feasible, maintains a state of good repair and satisfies public transportation priorities, support the economic vitality of the APO area, support transportation improvements)
- Reconstruction Projects
- Expansion Projects
- Year 2045 Congestion (Under/Approaching/Over Capacity Total Lane miles)
- MTP projects versus Ring Road projects
- 2045 MTP – Non-Project Tasks (Regional travel survey, develop a plan for more affordable transportation options, measure the impact of ride-hailing services, understand/monitor the transportation needs of immigrants/refugees/older residents/students, study critical crash rate intersections, explore ways to better understand active transportation behavior, identify & prioritize gaps in active transportation network, better define/understand interactions between the natural environment and transportation in region and economic development, define “Transportation Security” locally, evaluate potential for APO programs to support attainment of specific goals, improve connections between the APO region and the Twin Cities metro, explore opportunities to improve the worst performing regional roadway corridors, continue monitoring and adjusting to the development of CAVs, Estimate the transportation impacts of long-distance commuters & understanding the economics of their choice, estimate the net environmental impacts of transportation options, coordinate development of the urban area ring road)

Public input will start after approval by the Policy Board. If after the public comment period has been completed and major changes need to be made, the public comment period will need to be completed again. ***Mr. Schultz motioned to recommend Policy Board approval for public comment, and Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

DRAFT FY 2024 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBGP) SCORE SHEET:

Senior Planner Vicki Johnson reviewed the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, which provides flexible funding that may be used for projects to preserve and improve conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge, and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects, including intercity bus terminals. States and localities are responsible for a minimum 20 percent share of project costs funded through this program. 2024 will be a solicitation year for funds. Jurisdictions will complete applications in October and November, and the APO staff will score the projects, and then the TAC will develop regional priorities in January 2020. A draft scoresheet was presented for consideration. Previous years templates were similar to that used by Region 7W. However, APO staff felt the template could be improved upon and better align with the APO's goals, objectives and strategies outlined in the MTP. The scoresheet is required to maintain access & mobility, system connectivity, multimodal, system condition, safety, economic vitality, and equity. The APO has chosen to add an energy and environmental criterion to align better with the APO's MTP. The TAC members discussed the pros and cons of using a number scoring system or points, a star system, and a high/medium/low system. Several members stressed the importance of having clear scoring criteria for each category rated. The TAC will need to decide how or if equity will be used in the process. ***Mrs. Johnson asked for feedback on the scoring sheet before the next TAC meeting.***

SAINT CLOUD APO NEW LOGO DESIGN:

Mr. Gibson reported that the APO contracted with Gaslight Creative to rebuild/redesign the APO's website and redesign a new logo. A survey monkey was used for obtaining feedback from the staff, board members, TAC, and stakeholders for the logo. Forty people participated in the process. Four final logos were presented for consideration. Seventy percent of the responders preferred the logo being presented for approval to the Policy Board. ***Mr. Glaesman motioned to recommend Policy Board approval of the logo, and Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.***

OTHER BUSINESS/OPEN FLOOR:

Mrs. Johnson announced that in addition to Ms. Teich taking on the APO's technical/engineering position on the TA Committee, a vacancy still exists on the ATP for a Parks and Recreation member. Please send all suggestions for this vacant position to Mrs. Johnson. The next ATP meeting will be held in October.

Mr. Voss reported that there will be a District #3 Kick off District Freight Plan on August 12. SRF has been hired to take on this project. The last Freight Plan was done in 2012. Several shippers and haulers have been identified for participation on the Advisory Committee. Mr. Voss is hoping the APO will play a role in this. This will be done over the course of the coming year. There will also be a Manufacturers Perspective Study done. A new District Engineer and Traffic Engineer has been chosen. MnDOT will accept the I-94 segment from Clearwater to Monticello.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.